

Avila
100
Years

Accent

An Avila University Publication

FALL 2015

Avila changed my life



INSPIRED
TO ACHIEVE:
AVILA EARNS
MAJOR GRANT
PAGE 4

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS
BEGIN **PAGE 10**

Scholarship Fund
Provides Brighter Future

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Avila.edu

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LETTER FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

Dear Alumni and Friends,
As we prepare to celebrate Avila's 100th year, I have been reflecting on the characteristics that make up a thriving institution. Certainly, it begins with you – our alumni, supporters and friends.

Thriving also means a university that is well organized and structured, with a strong emphasis in the liberal arts and a focus on preparing students to serve, engage and make a difference. With this in mind, the Board of Trustees approved a new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan. Our students are studying under the new Core Curriculum that will engage them with and in a rapidly changing world, and prepare them to make a difference in the world. But thriving also means you are successful with the students who attend Avila. To that end, we received notice that we were awarded a \$1.1 million TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant helps the students most at risk at Avila to flourish.

Of course, thriving institutions must also be financially strong. We finished the 2014-2015 fiscal year with record support – more than \$10 million – and strong alumni participation in Steer Dinner and other alumni events. Our recent Homecoming weekend was a testament to how engaged and committed our alumni are, as we welcomed a record number back to campus. Leaders from the Class of 1965 did an outstanding job of contacting each and every one of their classmates for their special 50th reunion.

As we welcome a record number of undergraduate students back to campus again this fall, we do so knowing that we must prepare them for the future with high-quality academics, interdisciplinary classes and the values of our founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. We are preparing many for careers that don't yet exist (note I said careers, because

the students of tomorrow will have four or five careers). And given the pace at which knowledge is changing, we must cultivate in them a thirst for knowledge. More important is to develop a curious, lifelong learner who is best prepared for tomorrow's job market.

As if that wasn't enough to celebrate, Avila University was recently named one of the Top 100 Most Affordable Small Colleges West of the Mississippi by the national website, Great Value Colleges. Avila's graduates are ranked in the top 10 universities in Missouri for college graduate starting salaries by SmartAsset. These rankings help us convey the Avila experience to those just getting to know us.



Avila University President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

My greatest joy is witnessing alumni like Matt Brandmeyer '11 and his wife, Jessica, exemplify Avila's values and make a significant difference in our community. You can read more about the great work they are doing with the Second Chance Scholarship Fund in the pages ahead.

Thank you for all you do to ensure Avila will thrive well into its next 100 years. We couldn't do it without you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Slepitz". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'S' and a distinct 'P'.

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA
President



Avila President

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

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President's Circle

On September 24, 2015, members of Avila University's President's Circle gathered to induct three new members into the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Giving Society. The President's Circle is comprised of members who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the University, while the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Giving Society is comprised of individuals and organizations that have contributed more than \$1 million to Avila.

This year's inductees included Mr. Harold Schafer and Dr. Geraldine Schermoly-Schafer '68, Mr. Jack and Mrs. Glenna Wylie, and Mr. Stephen Carlson and Mrs. Tracy Henrichson Carlson '76.

Schafer and Schermoly-Schafer's support will establish an endowed scholarship in their name to help math and science students achieve their dream of a higher education.



Honorees accept Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Society medals during the 2015 President's Circle reception. Front (pictured left to right): Harold Schafer, Dr. Geraldine Schermoly-Schafer '68, Tamme Beaty and Tom McDonnell. Back (pictured left to right): president Ron Slepitzza, Ph.D., CSJA, and boardchair Ken Hager.

Although the Wylies were with us in spirit – Jack passed away last December and Glenna two years prior – they were represented by their daughter, Tamme Beaty, and longtime friend, Tom McDonnell. The Wylies' first gift was a piano donated in 2009. Since then, the Wylies established the Glenna Wylie Nursing Scholars, the Glenna Wylie Nursing Study Room and Glenna Wylie Hall.

Inductees, Carlson and Henrichson Carlson, although unable to attend the

event, will receive their recognition during a celebration in their home of Mesa, Arizona. Their support will establish an endowed scholarship for special education majors.

President Ron Slepitzza, Ph.D., CSJA, thanked the honorees for their support, stating, "On behalf of the University, I express my deepest gratitude for believing in us, pushing us to be better and joining us on this ongoing pursuit of improvement and excellence." 📖

Mass of The Holy Spirit

The Avila community gathered together on Thursday, September 10, 2015, to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit, a tradition observed each year by most Catholic colleges and universities around the world.

The mass begins each academic year, calling upon God to bless, inspire and guide the University in wisdom.

As the University begins its Centennial Celebration, Fr. Keith Branson devoted a special part of the ceremony to bless our community and 100-Year pins that were distributed to all in attendance. 📖



Inspiring Fundraisers Nationwide

Avila University's Hartsook Institute for Fundraising/Management debuted a fully accredited online master of arts in management/fundraising and graduate certificate in fundraising at The Nonprofit Times Power and Influence Top 50 awards ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. in September.

Hartsook Companies is one of the most prominent names in fundraising consulting and has created a worldwide network for fundraising education. The goal of the Institute is to grow philanthropy through research and knowledge-based, innovative fundraising education.

Five years ago, Avila University and Hartsook built one of the few on-site master's degree programs in fundraising in the country. Taking the program online makes this innovative program available to fundraising professionals nationwide.

In addition to management courses, the program is made up of six fundraising classes, including a capstone that culminates with a project to drive change at a nonprofit organization. Students gain knowledge to change the world through fundraising. 📱



Pictured, left to right: Angie Heer, Vice President for Advancement and External Relations, Avila University; Matthew Beem, MPA, CFRE, President and CEO of Hartsook; John McIlquham, President and CEO, The NonProfit Times; Karin Cox, MFA, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Creative Officer, Hartsook; and Adrian Sargeant, Ph.D., Avila University Visiting Professor for the Hartsook Institute and Director for the Center for Sustainable Philanthropy at Plymouth University, UK at the NonProfit Times Power and Influence Awards Ceremony.

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phone!



Download the free **Avila App** through Apple App Store or GooglePlay to access Avila Athletic, Arts and activities calendars. Follow our social media feeds to keep up on the latest news at Avila.



Questions?

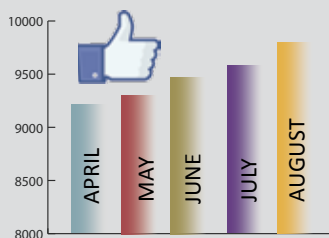
Contact Celeste.Greenlee@Avila.edu or 816.501.2450.



To learn more, visit
www.avila.edu/fundraising or contact Avila
Advantage School of Professional Studies at
816.501.3737.

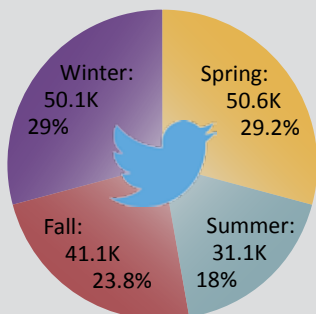
AVILA BY THE NUMBERS

Social Media Trends



Avila University Facebook Likes

Includes Avila University, Avila University Alumni Association and Avila Advantage: Avila University's Adult and Graduate Studies Facebook pages



Twitter Impressions

Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2015

Total: 172.9K (100%)

Includes Avila University
Twitter page

Social Media Superlative

**Most Liked Photo
on Instagram:**

First Day of School Photo

LinkedIn

Follow us on our
Avila University LinkedIn page

TRIO SSS Grant

Avila University has been awarded a 2015-2020 TRIO Student Support Service (SSS) Program grant of \$1,100,000 (\$220,000 per year) from the U.S. Department of Education.

This funding will allow Avila to better serve low-income and first-generation students who demonstrate academic need and are committed to enhancing their academic success. This assistance aligns with our mission, the pillars in our Strategic Plan for Student Success and our Quality Initiative being pursued under the Higher Learning Commission.

Our program, "Inspired to Achieve: A Student Support Services Program," will serve 150 Avila students each year with peer and professional tutoring, academic advising, learning communities, mentoring, cultural and social activities and career exploration. Anticipated outcomes include raising retention rates, graduation rates and thus, increasing a student's success in life.

Specifically, 70 percent of all participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of



Avila Upward Bound students stop at Mount Rushmore while in South Dakota for the Summer Excellence Institute 2015.

the next academic year or will have earned a bachelor's degree. Eighty-eight percent of all enrolled SSS participants being served will meet the performance level required to stay in good academic standing, and 50 percent of new participants served each year will graduate from the grantee institution with a bachelor's degree or equivalent within six years.

This is Avila's first TRIO SSS grant. To receive funding, Avila University had to go through an extremely competitive process; only 17 percent of these grants were awarded to new programs.

University president, Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA, said, "I am excited for the opportunities the TRIO Support Services program will provide the students who need it most."

A special thanks to those who made this possible, including Deanna Nelson, Darby Gough, Anna McDonald, Jason Baldwin, Joe Barnhill, Crystal Bruntz, Dave Deitch, McAllister & Quinn, Melissa Isaacs, Brandon Johnson and Sister Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. 🙏

Avila University Raises Record \$10 Million in 2014-2015

Avila achieved record fundraising last fiscal year, raising more than \$10 million, which is \$3 million more than the previous record. Included in the total funds raised were four gifts of \$1 million or more. The annual Steer Dinner & Auction raised more than \$1 million, with record support from alumni. Most importantly, these funds allow the University to help more students through scholarships and academic support. Scholarships are essential to most Avila students; making college affordable and allowing them to focus on their studies, stay positive and graduate within four years.

At Avila:

- 95 percent of students receive University scholarships
- More than \$11 million in scholarships are awarded to students each year
- One third of Avila students are the first in their family to go to college

Avila University's generous and involved friends, donors and alumni make these scholarships possible. In addition to scholarship support through fundraising, more donors and alumni are getting involved in mentoring opportunities, participating on committees and serving in leadership roles. 🙏

For more information on how you can get involved, contact the Advancement and Alumni Departments at 816.501.3780 or alumni@avila.edu.

Shattering Records

Largest Undergraduate Enrollment

Avila celebrates the largest full-time traditional undergraduate enrollment in University history. There are nearly 2,000 students enrolled at Avila, including 1,100 full-time undergraduates, a 6.7 percent increase from last fall. Since the fall of 2010, Avila's full-time undergraduate enrollment has increased by 25.6 percent.



Upperclassmen help move in largest undergraduate first year class.



Centennial-themed piano on display in Goppert Theatre lobby.

Pianos on Parade

Thanks to a sponsorship by Robert Hartsook, J.D., Ed.D., Avila University hosted Pianos on Parade and is now home to an Avila Centennial-themed piano.

Pianos on Parade is a program brought to Kansas City by Keys 4/4 Kids and the Kansas City Music Teachers Association. Keys 4/4 Kids is a local nonprofit organization that sells donated pianos in efforts to fund charitable programs.

Kids and professional artists painted a series of pianos at Union Station in May. The pianos were on display until September and could be found at a variety of planned events, concerts and host locations throughout Kansas City.

Although the parade has officially ended, the Avila University Centennial piano will remain in the Goppert Theatre Lobby throughout our Centennial year, 2016. 🎹

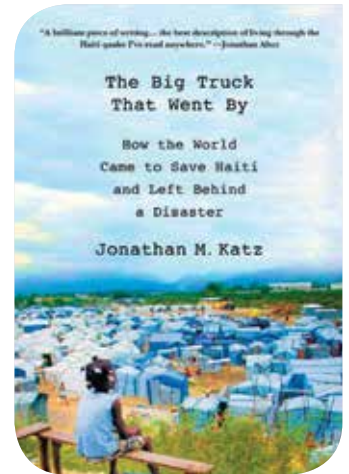
Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series

Jonathan M. Katz, author of “The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster”, and feature speaker of the 2015 Harry S. Truman Lecture Series, captivated an audience of approximately 400 this October with his personal account of the catastrophic earthquake in 2010 that tore across Haiti. Katz’s book was selected for the First Year Experience Common Reading Program; all first year students read it and wrote reflection papers.

Katz, being the only full-time American news correspondent in Haiti during the disaster, holds a unique perspective on the situation. “The Big Truck That Went By” is not only a definitive account of Haiti’s earthquake, but of the world we live in today. He unravels startling truths about how “good intentions go wrong”, and how to implement smarter foreign aid programs in the future.

Katz received the 2010 Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism, a National Headliners Award and received finalist recognition by the Livingston Award and Michael Kelly Award for the “fearless pursuit and expression of truth.”

At the event, students sold hand-made Haitian goods in order to raise funds for disaster relief. 🇮🇪



*“Never fall so deeply in
love with your narrative
that it can’t change”
- Jonathan M. Katz*

Thanks to the 2015 Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series Committee Members
Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D. Committee Chair
Robert Foulk
Angie Heer, CFRE
Paige Illum, Ph.D.
Hannah Meador
Ann O’Meara, MBA

A special thank you to our sponsors:



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Truman Lecture Series panelists shared personal accounts of volunteering in Haiti. Panelists (right to left): Nancy Jochens, Founding Board Member of Homes from the Heart, Overland Park and Jochens Law Firm; Grace McGowan, student volunteer; and Joe Knittig, CEO of The Global Orphan Project.

2015 INSPIRED FUNDRAISING SUMMIT

Fundraising Summit Inspires Full House in Goppert Once Again

On September 30, 2015, fundraising professionals traveled to Goppert Theatre to learn from illustrious experts in their profession at the 2015 Inspired Fundraising Summit, hosted by the Hartsook Institute for Fundraising



Dr. Adrian Sargeant inspiring a crowded Goppert Theatre at the 2015 Summit.

Management at Avila University and Hartsook Companies.

Two of the world's leading experts in fundraising took the stage at the 2015 Summit. Dr. Eugene R. Tempel, Founding Dean Emeritus of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, and Dr. Adrian Sargeant, Hartsook Visiting Professor at Avila University and Director of the Center for Sustainable Philanthropy at Plymouth University in the UK, led the presentations. Dr. Tempel and Dr. Sargeant have both been named to The Nonprofit Times Top 50 Power and Influence list.

Dr. Tempel gave a keynote on his latest research of a 25-year perspective of fundraising, following a presentation on challenges facing the fundraising profession from Dr. Sargeant.

As part of the experience, attendees



Dr. Tempel giving an enlightening keynote to fundraising professionals.

had the opportunity to learn from a "Women in Philanthropy" panel, rich in female philanthropic talent and experience. The panelists included: Debby Ballard, President and Executive Director of Sprint Foundation; Jean Brandmeyer, Community Volunteer; Jean Buchanan, Owner of Unified Life Insurance Company; and Mary Thompson O'Connor, Executive Vice President of Country Club Bank. President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D. CSJA, and Matt Beem, CFRE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hartsook welcomed the audience. Moderator for the event was Jeanne Hamilton Olofson '92, '94, '11, Avila University Trustee. 🗳️



"Women In Philanthropy" panelists pose with President Slepitzka and Summit moderator after sharing their wisdom with attendees. Pictured (right to left): Mary Thompson O'Connor, Debby Ballard, President Slepitzka, Summit moderator, Jeanne Hamilton Olofson '92, '94, '11, Jean Brandmeyer and Jean Buchanan '76.

 **HARTSOOK
INSTITUTE**
for fundraising

Academic Excellence and Affordability

Top 100 Most Affordable Small Colleges West of the Mississippi

Avila University has been named in the Top 100 Most Affordable Small Colleges West of the Mississippi by the national website, Great Value Colleges. The list consists of colleges and universities that “offer great value – that is, an ideal blend of high caliber and low cost.”

A well-known website, Great Value Colleges is a tool to help students determine which college or university best suits their needs. Great Value Colleges aims to provide, “high-quality, research-based articles and rankings covering a broad number of angles so as to help the most students possible.”

Avila University has been recognized for its sponsorship by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, class size, student-teacher ratio and for providing a wide variety of activities and academic opportunities. Great Value Colleges states, “Avila brings students of faith from around the world to grow as students and servants of God.”



Avila University among 50 most affordable small colleges for a human resources degree in 2015



Human Resources MBA, a nationally acclaimed website, recognized Avila University as one of the 50 most affordable small colleges for a human resources degree in 2015. Human Resources MBA is dedicated to assisting aspiring human resources professionals find a degree program that best fits their needs.

The website recognizes Avila's human resources degree program for taking Avila Advantage's innovative approach to human resources training. Avila Advantage is one of

the only human resources degree programs in Kansas City that offers convenience, value and high quality education.

Visit www.avila.edu/advantage/human-resources.asp for more information on the Avila's human resources degree program.

Avila Advantage programs are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

MISSION 100 CHALLENGE

Avila University invites you to join #Mission100. Under this initiative, Avila will be recruiting a minimum of 100 individuals to take on the mission of completing 100 service hours during Avila's 100th Year (2016).

For more information, contact Dave Armstrong, CSJA, director of Ministry, Spirituality and Action, at 816.501.2423 or david.armstrong@avila.edu. 📧

Inspired Leader

Bright financial future with new vice president for Finance and Administrative Services (CFO)

Avila University welcomes new vice president for Finance and Administrative Services (CFO), Paul Toler. Toler is a forward-thinking and strategic leader for the University, who will serve as a collaborative member of the Executive Committee.

Toler has extensive experience in finance and higher education including serving as associate vice chancellor for Finance at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. He served as chair of the Operational Excellence Initiative (OEI) on behalf of the President of the University of Missouri System.

Toler has earned three degrees from the University of Missouri including a bachelor of science in Business Administration (BSBA) with an emphasis in Finance and Banking, a BSBA with an emphasis in Real Estate and a master's degree in Business Administration. Paul has also achieved the Certified



Government Financial Manager designation through the Association of Government Accountants.

Transitioning from a public institution, Toler is looking forward to serving a liberal arts institution formed on the tenets of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet during exhilarating changes.

"I'm very happy to be here for what I consider to be an exciting time in the life of Avila University," Toler said. "Our new 5-year strategic plan, in conjunction with our updated long-term campus master plan, will help Avila University realize its full potential as we embark on our next 100 years. I'm grateful to have this opportunity and look forward to being a part of the Avila University community for many years to come." 📧

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Avila University is Celebrating Our 100 Year Anniversary!

The first Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in St. Louis from Lyon, France dedicated to the practice of all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which woman is capable and



which will most benefit the dear neighbor. They opened a school for the deaf, which survives today as the internationally recognized Saint Joseph's Institute for the Deaf. In 1866, Mother Francis Joseph Ivory and her five companions traveled to Kansas City to staff Father Bernard Donnelly's small Catholic community on Main Street. The school was known as Saint Joseph's Academy until the following year when it was incorporated as Saint Teresa's Academy.

In September 1916, St. Teresa College, a two-year College for women, was opened. Two years later, Margaret O'Rielly became

the first graduate of the junior college. In 1963, a move to the current location accompanied the name change to Avila College. And in 1969, Avila College became coeducational. With additional accreditation, Avila College became Avila University in 2001.

2015

Join us to celebrate Avila's 100th Anniversary.

October 26

Dedication of St. Teresa

We dedicated the statue of Saint Teresa of Avila, sculpted by Charles Goslin, located between Blasco Hall and Goppert Theatre. This statue was donated in memory of Jeanne Collins Thompson '54 and Byron G. Thompson, Sr. by the Thompson Family.



December 24

Christmas Vigil Mass

Join us for Christmas Vigil Mass in the Orscheln Chapel in Foyle Hall. Enjoy the music of Tom Jacobs and receive a 100-year commemorative pin. Come early; seats are limited.



100 Years of Inspiration

2016

Avila University 100 Years of Notables

Who was Avila's first President? What did S. Olive do?

Who was Hooley-Bundschu from library fame?

We'll provide these answers in emails, on social media and in upcoming published reports on Avila's 100 Years of Notables.

January 1

#Mission100

Be one of 100 people to perform 100 hours of service during Avila's 100th year.

Contact david.armstrong@avila.edu.

February 6

40th Annual Steer Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 6, 2016, Downtown Marriott-Muehlebach Tower

Join us as we celebrate 40 years of Steer Dinner, 100 years of Avila University and 150 years of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Kansas City!



March 11

Purple Progressive Party

Faculty and staff will enjoy multiple food courses throughout the campus culminating with 100 years of music in the Pavilion.



**March 23
Dining to Donate**

Anyone and Everyone - eat at Jasper's Restaurant (1201 W. 103rd, Kansas City) and a portion of your ticket will benefit the Kansas City CSJ community. Contact Barbara Roberts at broberts@csjsl.org.

**April 9
Dear Neighbor Day &
#Mission100 Celebration**

Join us for Avila's annual day of service. Meet on campus in the morning for words of inspiration, embark on a service project in the community, then return to campus for fellowship and frivolity. Email Julie.cowley@avila.edu or call 816.501.0427 to participate.

**May 13
Sending Ceremony**

Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza For graduates, friends and families as they commit to go out into the world to make a positive difference using the teachings from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



**May 14
Graduation**

Our ultimate tradition takes on a special meaning during our 100th year. Special prayers and celebrations will be included.



**May 22- 30
Centennial Trip to the Homeland**

Join us on this customized journey of a lifetime hosted by President Ron and Suzanne Slepitz with commentary from local experts Sisters Joan Lescinski and Kitty Hanley. We'll start in Paris —the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe. Then we'll go to Lyon and finally, to Le Puy-en-Velay, where the CSJ Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet formed in the 17th century. A few seats remain. Contact bailey.carr@avila.edu or 816.501.3780. Deadline is December 1, 2015.

**May 29 – June 25
Choir Performs in Rome**

Twenty-six student singers and Dr. Amity Bryson will travel to Rome, Florence and Venice to perform and compete at the highest level.

July
Prospective students and families will learn Avila's 100 years of history as they tour the campus.



**August 19
Move-in-Day**
An Avila tradition that actually makes moving fun! New students are treated to volunteers including President Slepitz, athletic teams, upperclassmen, faculty and staff who help them move their possessions from the car to the dorm room in record time.
Dare we say, 100 seconds?

Convocare
Goppert Theatre at 4pm
Our tradition for welcoming students will be accentuated with 100 years of right relationships. Everyone is welcome.

**September 24
Celebrate the Sisters of St. Joseph residing in Kansas City for 150 years** at a Cathedral Mass The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Contact Barbara Roberts at broberts@csjsl.org.

**September 29 – Oct 2
Homecoming 100**
Make plans to join us for an extraordinary Homecoming celebration.



**September 29
100th Anniversary Celebration**
Watch for more details on events that will celebrate 100 years of Avila's mission.



**October 2
Community Open House**
Join us along with alumni, neighbors and friends to tour the campus, learn our history, fill up with fellowship and enjoy ice cream and cake.



**October 15
St. Teresa of Avila Day**
It will be a special celebration during Avila's 100th year.

**October 20
Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series** featuring Carolyn M. McKinstry, noted Civil Rights leader. As part of Avila's first-year experience, the common reading book is McKinstry's "While the World Watched." McKinstry will give a feature presentation in Goppert Theatre.

**December
Avila Faculty, Staff & Administration's Christmas Party**
Including a spectacular Chorus presentation in Goppert Theatre.

**December 24
Christmas Vigil Mass**
Join us for Christmas Vigil Mass in the Orscheln Chapel in Foyle Hall. Come early; seats are limited.

2017

January – June
Celebrate the highlights of Avila's 100 years.



A CENTURY OF INSPIRATION
1916-2016

A Second Chance

Matt '12 and Jessica Brandmeyer have made it their lives' mission to give back. As local philanthropists and benefactors of the Second Chance Scholarship Fund, the Brandmeyers are helping underprivileged students in the Kansas City area realize brighter futures.

You may say Matt's own bright future began at Avila University. Suffering from dyslexia and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, Matt struggled at larger institutions that couldn't offer Avila's small class sizes and one-on-one attention from professors. For a while, he gave up. He dropped out of college, resigned to the thought that he just couldn't do it. Then, he came to Avila.

"Avila changed my life," said Matt. At Avila, he discovered his passion

for social work and social justice. Here, he regained a sense of hope. Matt graduated with his bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2012 and went on to earn his master's degree in Social Work. He is now a licensed counselor.

Both professionally and personally, Matt has always been compelled to help others.

"He would show up with someone who needed a place to stay or a

warm meal," said his wife, Jessica. "We donated Christmas presents and school supplies. We just always wanted to give back."

Realizing the impact a quality education played in their lives and the impact it can have on the community, Matt and Jessica established the Second Chance Scholarship Fund. The fund offers disadvantaged high school graduates, typically those from Kansas City, Kan. and Kansas City, Mo.



Matt '12 and Jessica Brandmeyer with Second Chance Scholarship fund recipient, Corina Guzman.

A Second Chance

school districts, a second chance for a brighter future by providing financial aid to continue their education and mentors to help them succeed.

What makes the Second Chance Scholarship Fund unique is that the Brandmeyers get to know each

scholarship recipient and their struggles personally. When a student faces a crisis, Matt and Jessica help them through it. They have driven numerous students to college orientation, helped set up dorm rooms and even provided bicycles

to students who don't have another source of transportation. This summer Jessica picked up a student in Wichita, Kan., and drove her to Manhattan, Kan., so she could attend her college orientation at Kansas State University. They truly are a support system for

their scholarship recipients.

"These students are scared to death. They are scared to go to college, scared to make a change and scared of the process. What we ultimately want to give them are the tools they need to succeed, to help them through intricate and confusing processes, and to alleviate all worries from the technical aspects of higher education," Matt said. "We want to smooth out the hardships of education for these students by providing helpful and nurturing mentorships."

The Second Chance Scholarship Fund receives more than 250 applications a year through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; a number that speaks to the needs of



continued on Page 14

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the Kansas City community. Matt says, “low income, first generation college students in economically depressed parts of the community are highly oppressed. The Second Chance Scholarship Fund exposes those problems. We see hundreds of cases of poverty, drug addictions, gun violence and death each year. How can you *not* do something about it?”

Since its establishment, the Second Chance Scholarship Fund has awarded scholarships to 51 students from 21 different schools in the Kansas City area. Once an applicant has received an award, the Second Chance Scholarship Fund holds its awardees to high standards. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA, complete 10 hours of community service a year and continually check in with their mentors to receive help throughout their education. In the last three years, 91 percent of the students awarded the scholarship are still enrolled in continuing education courses.

“We provide hope with accountability,” said Matt. “We have high expectations and we find that students rise to meet them.”

Avila graduate, Corina Guzman '15, is one student who rose to these expectations. The youngest of three, Corina was determined to pursue a better life and become the first college graduate in her family. Born in El Salvador, Corina was unable to apply for federal financial aid because of her citizenship status. Faced with paying for college on her own, Corina found the Second Chance Scholarship on the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation's website.



*“They truly made it all possible.”
~Corina Guzman '15*

Matt and Jessica interviewed Corina and were so impressed by her resolve that they offered her the scholarship. Corina was placed with a Second Chance mentor that helped her acclimate to university life. Together, they navigated college experiences that can be overwhelming for first-generation students like Corina. Her mentor helped her pay fees, search for scholarships and acquire dorm supplies and discounted textbooks. Throughout her time at Avila, her Second Chance mentor kept in touch with her, extending a helping hand if she ever needed one.

“Without this scholarship, I wouldn't have had the support and mentors who were there for me and showed me they cared for me throughout college,”

Corina reflected. “Thanks to the Second Chance Scholarship Fund, I was at ease knowing I had support throughout my college experience. I’m grateful for everything they helped me with. They truly made it all possible.”

After just three years, Corina graduated from Avila in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in Biology. Throughout her time at Avila, she was involved in campus ministries, Society of Latinos (SOL), Peers Educating Avila about Counseling and Health (PEACH), and was a



“A community is like a garden you have to nurture it in order for it to grow.”
~Jessica Brandmeyer



“We provide hope with accountability.”
~Matt Brandmeyer ’12

community pillar leader. Corina’s goal is to become a doctor of pediatrics. Currently, she is working at St. Joseph’s Medical Center as a scribe, an opportunity made possible through the Second Chance network.

Matt and Jessica Brandmeyer live up to the Avila value of helping the dear neighbor without distinction. They feel the responsibility to help urban youth receive higher education, thus changing the community for the better. “A community is like a garden,” said Jessica, “you have to nurture it in order for it to grow. When you provide someone with an education, you are not only helping that one person; you are helping the generations that came before them and the generations to come.” 🌱

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Gregory Fitch, Ph.D., professor and chair of Biology, received a \$2,200 grant from the Office of Global Studies and Social Justice and traveled to Milan, Florence and Bologna, Italy this summer. Fitch conducted a thorough site visit in

preparation for a travel course that will be offered during the spring 2016 semester with associate professor of Psychology, Jordan Wagge, Ph.D. The interdisciplinary studies course, Reasoning, History, and Social Implications of Science, will provide education and training in scientific thought and reasoning and in the implication for social justice of the methods and discoveries of science.



Judy Gibbs, J.D., associate professor of Business, presented "Employment Laws and Issues in Transacting Business in Southern and Eastern Africa" at the International Journal of Arts and Sciences Conference in Boston this summer.



Dotty Hamilton, Ph.D., professor of Communication, will bring an array of more than 25 international and documentary films to Kansas City this year as the vice president of programming for the Kansas International Film Festival, which

will take place from November 6-12 at the Glenwood Arts Theatre in Overland Park, Kan. To learn more about the Kansas International Film Festival, please visit www.kansasfilm.com.



David Wissman, Ph.D., professor of Sociology is an active member of the board of trustees for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). As well as serving on the board, Dr. Wissmann is a member of the HLC executive committee and

a chairperson of the Committee on Strategy for a two-year term (2015-2017).



Janet Reagor, Ph.D., interim dean, director of the RN-BSN program and assistant professor of Nursing, coordinated a full day Testing, Writing and Analysis Workshop this summer at Avila, which was co-sponsored with UMKC

nursing faculty, in order to better equip nursing students for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN®).



Amy Milakovic, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, wrote a paper titled "'What did you do in the war, Mommy?'" Competing Constructs in the Women in Military Service

for America Memorial," which was recently published by the Rhetoric Society of America in the book, "Rhetoric Across Borders." She also took part in a scholarly workshop on the topic of Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Global Citizenship, to increase global citizenship and collaborative scholarship among her students.



Ken Parsons, Ph.D., associate professor of Philosophy and director of the Center

for Global Studies and Social Justice, and **Carol Coburn, Ph.D.**, professor of Religious Studies and director of the CSJ Center for Heritage, Spirituality and Service, stayed with and engaged four CSJ communities in three countries (Bolivia, Perú, and Argentina). Their mission was to increase student internships and service trips within these countries.



University Singers and Amity Bryson, DMA, Take Rome Again

Music department chair shares her hopes for the University Singers ensemble performing in St. Peter's Basilica during the summer of 2016



Thanks to the exceptional efforts of Music department chair, Amity Bryson, DMA, the Avila University Singers have received another exclusive invitation to participate in the Festival Corale Internazionale di Roma at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City on June 24, 2016. Dr. Bryson couldn't be more excited.

"To sing inside St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is a true honor. We have been working for six years to return," says Bryson. In the spirit of unity, she hopes to reunite her 2009 Rome ensemble alumni with her upcoming Rome 2016 ensemble students to learn from one another and share the spirit of Avila.

According to Bryson, singing alongside her students gives her the opportunity to be a better teacher. Looking back at her 16 years at Avila University, she said, "Avila is a great place. Many things have allowed us to change and grow. I believe that the future looks great." 🎵

With much excitement in the air, students have created an official countdown to Rome 2016. Follow their journey on Facebook (Avila University Music Department) and Twitter (@avilaumusic).



Avila University Singers performing at the 2015 Sending Ceremony.



Inspiring Future Coaches

After an extensive application process, Avila University's Master of Science in Organizational Development (MSOD) with a concentration or certification in Leadership Coaching received recognition for Approved Coach Specific Training Hours (ACSTH) through the International Coach Federation (ICF). As of April 2015, Avila University has officially become the only organization in the Greater Kansas City area to offer graduate credit hours that can be used towards a coaching certification and ICF credentials.

Avila Advantage's lead MSOD faculty member, Marchita Stanton, along with associate director, Kari Clevenger, and director of faculty and curriculum, Steve Iliff, Ph.D., worked collectively in the effort to receive the ICF approval.

Stanton believes the coaching certification from Avila University along with ICF credentials will open many doors for the University and its students. Competitive advantage best describes the MSOD program and ICF approval.

"AU students are committed to learning and practicing," says Stanton. "They understand the importance of organization effectiveness. Students graduate with the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to coach leaders in any industry (national and international). Facilitating organization transformation

starts while in the program and continues in the industry after graduation. It is the norm rather than the exception for Avila's MSOD students and leadership coaches to receive promotions while in the graduate degree program."

Upon completion of coaching coursework, students have the opportunity to utilize their portfolio and 164 hours of coach training acquired through Avila towards becoming credentialed through ICF. The Leadership Coaching Certification and concentration within the MSOD, moves students closer to ICF credentials and provides heightened credibility for current initiatives.

By receiving recognition for Approved Coach Specific Training hours through the ICF, Avila University students have the opportunity to make a difference in the world, by training and leading in any field. "All students make a difference. Change happens in nuggets whether it is in the United States or with our international students who return to their country of origin after graduation and proactively put into practice what they have learned at Avila," Stanton concludes. 📌

For more information on the Master of Science in Organizational Development-Leadership Coaching degree, visit avila.edu/graduatestudies or call 816.501.3737.

Finding Passion in the Law

Melissa Seabaugh '14 had hopes of majoring in Psychology as a first-year student at Avila University. It was through caring relationships with the faculty and thought-provoking classes that she was inspired to pursue her passion in life – law.

“The faculty and staff at Avila helped me dive into what I really wanted to do,” she said. “When I first came to Avila, I thought that psychology was my calling. They opened my eyes to what I really enjoyed and gave me opportunities to find out what I was truly passionate about.”

Once Seabaugh found her dream, there was no stopping her from achieving her goals. She was inspired by the faculty. “The professors love what they do and they inspired me to find something that I was passionate about because I could tell the faculty loved coming into work every day”. The faculty was “always kind and generous with their time and thoughts,” she said, often staying late to help her edit her personal statement and law school applications, and writing her letters of recommendation.

Inspired by her undergraduate education at Avila, Seabaugh is now attending law school at Washburn University; a program that accepts only 22 out of approximately 300 applicants. Currently, she serves as her class representative of the Washburn Student Bar Association.

With a fall and summer semester under her belt, Seabaugh currently stands in the top 30 percent of her class. “My time at Avila was essential in helping me succeed in my first semester,” she said. “It helped me balance academics and other activities. This time management helped me to balance all of the reading that



“The Faculty inspired me to find something that I was passionate about...”

~Melissa Seabaugh

was required – typically 20-60 pages a night per class – since I had already learned how to outline my reading assignments for tests. Speaking with faculty and going to their office hours seemed like second nature because of the faculty’s fostering environment at Avila.”

Seabaugh plans to graduate from law school in two-and-a-half years and work at a small firm in Kansas. This will give her a taste of the many different types of law, so she can determine her ultimate career path. 📖

Explore the World



Washington D.C.



France & Switzerland



Berlin



Cuba

Avila University's **Center for Global Studies and Social Justice's** Fall 2015 travel courses are designed to incorporate academic coursework in culturally immersive opportunities beyond campus. Students have the opportunity to further global and intercultural understanding in places such as Cuba, Berlin, Washington D.C., France and Switzerland. These rich experiences, led by two professors from different disciplines, will push the boundaries of familiarity, allowing students to experience eye-opening, unparalleled opportunities. Students will gain intercultural understanding and new perspectives in subjects such as religion, natural science, health science, social science, the humanities and the arts. In past semesters, students have traveled to Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Korea, Canada and Rwanda. 🌍



GLOBUS

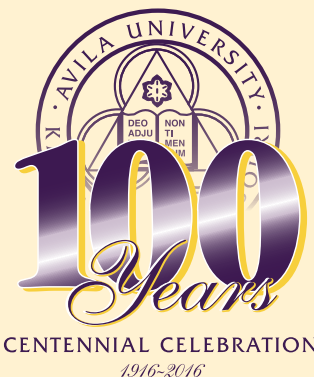


Avila's Centennial Trip

Join us for the trip of a lifetime and a journey to celebrate Avila University's Centennial! It all takes place May 22-30, 2016.

The journey begins with three days in Paris, France, where you'll tour iconic sites such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe. Then, we'll continue by TGV train to Lyon, France, and finally, to Le Puy-en-Velay, where the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet formed in the 17th century. You'll see Le Puy with local experts Sisters Joan Lescinski and Kitty Hanley and visit the Bobbin Lace Learning Center.

To learn more about the history of Avila's founders and enjoy Avila's Centennial trip, contact Bailey Carr, Avila's director of alumni relations & annual fund, at **816.501.3780** or bailey.carr@avila.edu.



AVILA UNIVERSITY
Be Inspired.

Dreams in Dubai

Working in another culture always appealed to Erin Rivera '08. Two-and-a-half years ago, that dream became a reality for Rivera, her husband, Chadd, and their pup, Drizzy.

As a student, Rivera spent time juggling school, soccer, internships and work. Dedicated to her activities, she never had the opportunity to study abroad.

After graduating in 2008, Rivera began working for Cerner, the company she interned with while pursuing her undergraduate degree. Knowing Cerner has a strong global presence, Rivera kept her sights on finding the perfect opportunity abroad. After networking and exploring potential markets, she secured a position in Dubai, UAE.

Currently, Rivera is responsible for strategic planning and implementing programs focused on Cerner's population health solutions, ensuring successful deployment of programs within the Middle East and Africa.

"Here in the Middle East, unlike other parts of the world, you have a chance to change healthcare at a countrywide level, which is a very unique feeling when you come to work. In order to maximize the experience both personally and professionally, you have to come with an open mind and be prepared for one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities that you'll have," she said.

Working abroad is rewarding, yet presents challenges and new experiences. Rivera believes her time at Avila prepared her to handle the challenges that come her way.

"As a student, I didn't have the liberty to hide in a sea of students like some large schools. And since I was afforded the opportunity to cultivate relationships with my professors, I always felt driven to succeed, so not to let them (or myself) down."

Avila helped Rivera prepare to embrace different cultures. She reflects, "I had the opportunity to work with many students from countries around the globe — China, France and South Africa to name a few."

On a personal level, Rivera is immersing herself in the culture. "Living in the Middle East offers a host of personal opportunities," she said. "Last October, we climbed Mount Kilimanjaro — stood 5895 meters over Africa and saw the full moon fall while the sun rose. These experiences are invaluable to me." 🌄



First-Hand Helping Experience



Students arriving to Harvesters, poised for a day of service.



Before the beginning of the fall 2015-16 term, first-year students volunteered at Harvesters – The Community Food Network based in Kansas City. Our students sorted and repacked more than 62,000 pounds of food. 🌾



Continuing the Interfaith Dialogue



Students pose with Eboo Patel after a book signing. Left to right: Logan Betts, Ashley Mackenzie, Eboo Patel, Zaria Dukes and Nick Horne.



Left to right: Dave Armstrong, Eboo Patel and President Slepitza.

President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA, Dave Armstrong, director of Spirituality, Ministry and Action, students, faculty and staff attended the Advancing Interfaith Cooperation 50th Anniversary Nostra Aetate Conference at the Kansas Speedway.

With special guest Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core and a member of President Barack Obama's inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships, attendees gained firsthand experience on how to advance interfaith awareness, sensitivity and dialogue on campus.

The presenting sponsors included Avila University, Benedictine College, Conception Seminary College, Donnelly College, Rockhurst University and University of St. Mary. 🇺🇸

New Minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The new interdisciplinary minor, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, is now available for students who have an interest in understanding one of the most significant historical, political, ethical, social and cultural events of the last century and beyond.

The minor is designed to provide a deep knowledge of the Nazi Holocaust and the occurrence of genocide throughout human history. 🇺🇸

For more information on the minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, visit transformlearning.avila.edu/rspl/.

“End the Stigma” Strikes Gold

Communication student wins gold in 2015 International AVA Digital Competition

The Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) announced the 2015 International AVA Digital Awards Competition winners. Erin Casey Lee, sophomore Communication



Erin Casey Lee showing off trophy in front of the “End the Stigma” campaign.

student, received individual honors for her campaign titled “End the Stigma” (pronounced End the Stigma) aimed at reducing the stigma of mental illness. Lee worked with the Avila Counseling Center and other mental health professionals to construct the campaign.

AVA Digital Awards is an international competition that recognizes excellence by creative professionals responsible for the planning, concept, direction, design and production of digital communication. Work entered in the competition ranges from digital engagement campaigns, audio, video production, website development, social media interaction, as well as mobile marketing.

Lee says she was drawn to the topic and the need to give it a voice through personal experiences with family and friends. She sought to use the campaign to both raise awareness and assign



individual responsibility to get involved, thus the End.

Dr. J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., Professor of Communications, spoke of his pride in Lee’s accomplishments. Dr. Snorgrass shared, “To have a student’s work honored in this way, among the more than 2,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries, speaks to the talents of the student and the quality of the instruction being offered in the School of Visual & Communication Arts.”

Communication Students Win Platinum and Gold at 2015 Hermes Creative Awards

Students from the School of Visual and Communication Arts took home several Platinum and Gold Awards from the Hermes Creative Awards. An international competition for concept, writing and design creative professionals, the Hermes Awards recognizes top entries from a wide range of categories including print media, PR/Communications and electronic media.

“Oftentimes students sense that success is based upon echoing what they think professors want to hear,” said J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D. “In the School of Visual & Communication Arts, students are pushed to explore and cultivate their own unique inner strengths under the nurturing eye of our credentialed and experienced faculty. Students are challenged to apply these talents collaboratively in the classroom and the real world. This spirit is reflected and embodied in the award-winning work designed and produced by our students, and it makes me very proud of them. I’m even more proud of what it shows they are capable of doing in the future to help improve our world.”

2015 Hermes Creative Awards Platinum Awards

Nicole Phillips, Pro Bono H3TV:
“Keep on Movin’ at the Library”
Aimee Adams, Integrated Marketing:
“Unleash Your Power”

Gold Awards

Nichole Phillips, Media Kit: “Zoom Jr.”
Aimee Adams, Pro Bono:
“The Gym to Get You There”
Aimee Adams, Pro Bono: “Unleash Your Power”
TAG (Talon Advertising Group) Valerie Reed &
Colbi Howser, Logo: “Beyond Borders”



Living the Dream

Jerry Manan cast as lead in play during his first year

Imagine lighting up the stage as the lead in the play your first year at college. At many universities, this would be just the distant dream of an aspiring theatre major; but at Avila, this became a reality. Jerry Manan lived this when he was cast as the role of Romeo in Shakespeare's famous "Romeo and Juliet" last fall.

When beginning to look for colleges, Manan knew he wanted a small school where he could focus on acting. After being introduced to Avila by a high school teacher, he visited the campus and found the perfect fit. "I visited the campus and liked it," he said, "The campus was small; I got along well with the professors, and everyone seemed much more welcoming than at any other university."

During his freshman year, Manan was cast in three out of four shows playing a wide variety of characters including a monk, a head muleteer and Romeo. "I have been challenged in a good way. My roles, especially as Romeo, pushed me right out of the gate and allowed me to gain hands-on, first-rate experience," he said.

Over the next three years, Manan wants to be cast in as many shows as possible, learn more about acting, participate in theatre festivals and dive into film.



"My professors will be the first people I go to in order to see what job opportunities are available. They have great connections and close ties with reputable theatres in Kansas City and across the country," he said. Ultimately, he would love to start out in the acting arena in Kansas City, and then branch off elsewhere to make movies.

"At Avila, students are living their dreams every day. The faculty believe in giving unique opportunities to help students discover their potential and passion," said Manan. 🎭

Manan as Romeo in 2014 performance.



GOPPERT THEATRE AT AVILA UNIVERSITY



To Kill a Mockingbird

Nov. 19–22, 2015

Night of the Living Dead

Feb. 25–28, 2016

Spamalot

Apr. 28–30 & May 1, 2016

Madrigal Dinner

December 10–12, 2015

Spring Concert

May 6, 2016

Reserve tickets online:
avila.edu/theatre/tickets.asp
or call 816.501.3699

Amanda Hale '15 Helps Others Stay Head Strong



Despite a brain tumor diagnosis, this heroic Avila MBA Healthcare Administration graduate and mother-of-five has found her true calling as a community ambassador for the Head for the Cure Foundation.

When Hale started her MBA at Avila University in 2010 she had no idea what impact her decision would have on her personal journey or that of her family.

In 2011, Hale was diagnosed with a glioma, or a brain tumor, when she was pregnant with her youngest child. According to Hale, “the emotional side of the diagnosis did not come into play until much later.”

As if this struggle was not enough, she and her husband, Jason, were also the primary caregivers for her mother-in-law.

When her mother-in-law passed away in late November 2013, it gave them both a first-hand account of the challenges that both patients and caregivers encounter.

As a result of these adversities, Hale wanted to be able to gain deeper insights about how health care organizations operate and the ongoing struggles that the health care industry continually faces. She credits Christine Brough, M.S., professor of Health Care, for her commitment and an opportunity to advocate for an organization, like the Head for the Cure Foundation.

Amanda and her team, Team Hale, recently participated in the 13th Annual Head for the Cure 5K in Overland Park, pictured above. 📸

Student Becomes Red Cross Ambassador

Eric Smith, a junior biology major, Secondary Education minor and student athlete from Springfield, Mo., has brought the Red Cross to Avila University’s campus. Through a Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program scholarship that Smith received last year, he trained as a Red Cross ambassador and brought the Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program to Avila in efforts to sponsor Red Cross blood drives.

Since the Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program’s inception in April 2013, approximately 54 percent more blood has been collected on participating universities than previously without this program – a feat Smith is excited to continue on the Avila campus.

In preparation, Smith attended a 2-week program in Washington D.C.

during the summer. While there, he had the opportunity to meet and learn from executive leadership of the Red Cross and NAIA, such as Brian Hamil, leader of the Red Cross/NAIA Leadership program, and Gail McGovern, CEO and President of the American Red Cross. While there, he learned the meaning of being a leader on campus and in the workplace, and the challenges that will arise while implementing this program.

“With the beginning of this great organization’s establishment on campus, I hope to provide an area where students can learn how the Red Cross works, the volunteer opportunities associated with the Red Cross and the many ways the Red Cross can, and does, help people both at home and abroad,” he said. “I hope to make Avila a force of blood donation in the region. Blood donation is a great

way to ‘serve the dear neighbor,’ as well as many other aspects of the University’s mission and values.” 📸



Junior Biology and Secondary Education major, Eric Smith, with leader of the Red Cross/NAIA Leadership program, Brian Hamil.

FDA Female Front-runner

Whether it is being a member of one of the first graduating classes of the new Avila College campus, spearheading efforts in the workforce after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or her leading sense of humor – Mary-Margaret Richardson '65 is a front-runner.

In 1965, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) hired the first batch of female field investigators. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Psychology from Avila College, Richardson was recruited to be a part of that group. Unbeknownst to Richardson, her degree put her on the FDA's list of

possible candidates. She was hired in November of 1965, the first female to be hired out of the Kansas City District of the FDA.

During her almost 35 years with the FDA, Richardson blazed many trails. When she began her career, neither the industry nor the FDA was prepared for female investigators. On her first day of work, she was asked for her inseam size – having no clothes available in women's sizes. The FDA, also, did not have separate shower facilities for women, that is, until Richardson walked into the chief inspector's office and requested either a guard out front of the men's facilities or for a women's shower to be installed. The latter request won, dubbing the name the "Mary-Margaret Richardson Memorial Shower." Experiences such as these taught Mary-Margaret how to handle hardships with grace and wit. She broke every barrier that came her way with her strong spirit and uncanny sense of humor.

Today, she is enjoying retirement. Richardson continues to take on life with the gusto she possessed as a young female front-runner of the FDA. A year



ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer, having a double mastectomy in May. Today, she is cancer-free. She is looking forward to the years to come spending time in her garden and with her cats. She may even go back to school.

As she looks back, she is appreciative of each and every experience. Her time at Avila prepared her for her work in the FDA – teaching her how to get along with others, finding the right career choice and giving her an excellent starting point. "I appreciate what Avila gave me," said Richardson. 🐾



Leadership in Her Bones

Senior Radiologic Science student, Shelby Liggett, was awarded the Student Leadership Program Grant through the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS). Liggett, who currently holds the community service chair for Avila's NSLS chapter, was afforded an opportunity unlike any other through this grant.

"The Student Leadership Program Grant from the National Society of Leadership and Success provided the financial means for me to attend the 2015 American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting at the ASRT's national headquarters this summer," she said.

Classes at the symposium taught the importance of professionalism and being a good role model in all aspects in life.



"This experience has broadened my knowledge and enthusiasm of the professions in medical imaging in many areas beyond the classroom and clinical rotations," she reflected. 🐾

Inspired Campus Events

Avila University students are inspiring the community.



1. The first-year class made an impact while at Harvesters — The Community Food Network.
2. Father Keith Branson and students reflect at Mass of the Holy Spirit.
3. Students share pride at the Ethnic Food and Culture Celebration.
4. Upperclassmen pitched in a helping hand when Avila University welcomed the largest undergraduate first-year class on campus.
5. This year's Eagle Madness gave students a reason to cheer.
6. After the game, students danced the night away at the Homecoming Dance.
7. The crowd went wild when the 2015 Homecoming Court took the field.
8. The Department of English hosted its annual public reading of selected literature. This year's topic was "Myths from around the Globe."
9. Things got a little silly at this year's AU Kickoff.





Heritage Mass and Luncheon



Monica Rafter '74 flew in from Tucson, Ariz., to receive her Heritage Society Certificate from President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA.



Mary Fern '58, Francis Lehane '57 and Melissa Isaacs '15, director of corporate and foundation relations, are ready to celebrate Mary Fern's induction into the Heritage Society.

Alumni from near and far returned to campus for the 2015 Homecoming events and activities. At the Heritage Mass and Luncheon, the Heritage Society welcomed nine new members. The women from the class of 1965 reminisced over old photos at their class reunion. Alumni faculty and staff gathered at the McCullough Courtyard for a reception to see old colleagues and friends. And to wrap up the weekend, eighteen alumni were recognized for their outstanding contributions and accomplishments at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony. 🏆

Mark your calendars for next year's Homecoming!
Homecoming 2016
September 29 – October 2



Deanna Nelson, senior director of development, with sisters Mary Bolin '47 and S. Ann Schorfheid '54.



Kathleen O'Connor Lombardo, Fran Minges Engel and Cheri Murry Effertz of the class of 1965 reminisce and look at photos from 1965.

FOREVER PURPLE

1965 Class Reunion



Front Row (L to R): Cheri Murry Effertz, Ann Triplett Quick, Trudy Leavey DeLuca, Susan Jordan Heath, Ginny Munsterman Klein Back Row (L to R): Kathleen O'Connor Lombardo, Fran Minges Engel, Joanne Lynch Brosnahan, Marcia O'Neil Cinq-Mars, Marlene Manley Rowe, Helen Rutte Stefanov '59 (former professor), Mary Kay Pyle Dillingham, Peg Crawford Steunenber.

Former Faculty and Staff Reception



Art and Joan Schlumpberger enjoying the evening catching up with former co-workers.



Winners Honored

2015 Alumni Association Awardees



CHRISTINE OJILE '82
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Michael Woods '82



JEAN BUCHANAN '76
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
nominated by Jim & Rosemary Maher



JANICE MCBRIEN REGAN '63
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
nominated by Betty Booker '63



ASHLEY HENSON '09
RECENT ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Kathleen Mendenhall '68



JENNIFER DELANEY '05
GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by David Bower '05



S. RUTH STUCKEL
HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Teresa House '78



TERRY EGELHOFF '65
HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Teresa House '78



ANN COLEMAN '75
HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Ann Suellentrop



S. MARGARET VINCENT '85
HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by S. Ann Schorfheide '54



BETH HEIDE '95
HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Carol Jean DeFeo '68



SARAH FOHN '05
HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Dr. Susie Fetsch

2015 Academic Alumni Awardees



REBECCA YOUNKER '14
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL
SCIENCES
nominated by Dr. Jeffrey Myers



LISA YORK '12, '14
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ALUMNI AWARD
nominated by Dr. Wendy Acker



LINDA TILTON '91
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
nominated by Dr. Fred Geer



S. MARY MARGARET LAZIO '70
SCHOOL OF NURSING
nominated by Dr. Susie Fetsch



BRANDI RIGGS '06
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
nominated by Kari Clevenger '00, '06



DR. MICHAEL MARX '80
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & HEALTH
nominated by Dr. Larry Sullivan



JANICE MEAD '06
SCHOOL OF VISUAL & COMMUNICATION ARTS
nominated by Susan Lawlor

Class Alumni Partner Reception and Meeting

The Class Alumni Partners (CAPs) gathered on campus for the annual meeting. Class Alumni Partners serve as ambassadors by promoting the interests of the university, students and alumni in the community. They organize class volunteers and contact classmates about upcoming reunions or alumni events. If you are interested in becoming a CAP, please contact the Alumni Office at 816.501.3780 or alumni@avila.edu.



Pictured: Carol Jean DeFeo '68 talking with Carmen Bisacca '89, Marybeth Swartz-O'Malley '47 and Mimi Powers '56.



1940s Class Reunion and Luncheon

Alumni who graduated in the 1940s reconnected for an annual luncheon held on campus. Attendees, left to right: Rosemary Flanigan, CSJ '47, Rose Marie Carrollo Falco '47, Marie Henn Kissinger '49, Helen Jane Gray Wald '46, Marybeth Malsie Swartz O'Malley '47, Kathryn Childs Hake '47, Jean Male Collins '48, Mary Schorfheide Bolin '47, Ester Burke Loschke '47.

Avila Alumni Award Winners



Alumni Awards Chair, Cecile O'Hara '10 with Honorary Alumnus Awardee, S. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ and president, Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA.



The Alumni Choir performed at beginning of the program.

100
Years

A CENTURY OF INSPIRATION
1916-2016



2015 Alumni Award Winners Front Row, left to right: Ann Coleman '75, S. Margaret Vincent, CSJ '85, Sr. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ, Linda Tilton '91, Christine Ojile '82, Rebecca Younker '14, Janice Mead '06, '08. Back Row, left to right: Theresa Egelhoff '65, Lisa York '12, '14, Sara Fohn '05, Jean Buchanan '76, president Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, Jennifer Delaney '05, Ashley Henson '09 and Brandy Riggs '06.



Hermann Wine Tasting and Tour

The Alumni Association took a bus to Hermann, Mo. The group taste-tested sausages, wine and took a tour of the Stone Hill Winery.

Pictured left to right: Bailey Carr '09, '12, director of alumni relations, David Page, Barbara Polette '79, Chris Korth, Lori Wrubel, Sydney Ellis '09, Stephanie Pitts, Vicki McGuire, Ron Bennet '89, Nancy Bennet, Russann Ruch-Mekonen '10, Ken Mckonen '11 and Celeste Greenlee '14, senior director of development.



Sporting KC Tailgate and Game

The Alumni Association attended the Sporting KC game versus the San Jose Earthquakes on August 19, 2015. The alumni enjoyed a beautiful evening out at Sporting Park. Pictured before the game at the Alumni tailgate, left to Right: Cristina Baker Cowan '10, Josh Cowan, Patrick Renz, Jessy Borst Renz '09 and Katie Feierabend '09, '12.

Upcoming Events

Men's & Women's Basketball Alumni Reception

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Come cheer on the current Avila teams against Central Methodist and stay for a reception following both the women's and men's game. First tip off at 2pm.

Volleyball Alumni Reunion and Scrimmage

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Watch current players scrimmage and then take your turn at the net for an alumni scrimmage. Stay for lunch and meet the coaches and current players.

Softball Alumni Reception

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Come meet the coaches and current players for lunch and stay to cheer on the team against William Penn.

Men's & Women's Soccer Reunion and Scrimmage

Friday, May 6, 2016

Participate in the first Avila Alumni foot golf tournament at Loose Park. A reception will follow the tournament. Come the next day, Saturday, May 7, 2016 for lunch with current players and fellow alumni. Stay for scrimmages against fellow alumni and former teammates.

Football, Dance & Cheer Reunion

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Scrimmage with fellow alumni and stay to watch the next season's players scrimmage. Lunch will be provided.



'10'13 ALEX CHARRON WITT AND BRIAN WITT '10

welcomed their first child,
Brooklyn, on May 2nd.

'58 BOBBI "HAFNER" COURVILLE was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. Her term began in August.

'63 JANICE MCBRIEN REGAN received the 2015 Alumni Service Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'65 TERRY MORRIS EGELHOFF received the 1965 Honored Class Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'70 S. MARY MARGARET LAZIO received the 2015 School of Nursing Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'75 ANN COLEMAN received the 1975 Honored Class Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'76 JEAN BUCHANAN received the 2015 Avila Achievement Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'77 SALLY ELLIS FLETCHER PH.D., RN, FNAP, wrote the book, "Cultural Sensibility in Healthcare." It was released in July 2015.

'80 DR. MICHAEL MARX received the 2015 School of Science & Health Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'82 CHRISTINE OJILE received the 2015 Outstanding Alumnus Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'83 MARVIN SELLERS wrote a book titled, "Encouragement For Life - Keep Going - Don't Give Up & Don't Give In." It was published by Tate Publishing in July 2015.

'85 S. MARGARET VINCENT received the 1985 Honored Class Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'89 SHEILA LUEHRS was recently promoted to regional operations manager at Cerner.

'89 CAROLE COWELL HILLESTAD retired in June from her position as chair and director of the Radiologic Science Program and assistant professor of Radiologic Sciences at Avila University. Carole remains active on Avila's 100-Year Celebration team and is excited for her next chapter in life.

'91 LINDA TILTON received the 2015 School of Education Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'92 KRISTY PIERCE BISHOP recently accepted a new position as vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, Pa.

'93'99 TAMELA HANDIE is transferring to the City of Kansas City, Mo., Administration Division in Finance. This change is a great opportunity for Tamela to build on her communication, facilitation and organizational planning skills.

'93 STEPHEN REDMON directed his first play, "Cinderella," at the Columbia Entertainment Center in Columbia, Mo.

'95 BETH HEIDE received the 1995 Honored Class Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'98 MARCIA KENLEY was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. Her term began in August.

'02 BLAKE FRY has been appointed as the president of the Hudson (Wis.) Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. He began serving as president in April and is responsible for the coordination of all organizational activities of the Chamber including programs, membership, employment, training and supervision of staff, long range planning and total fiscal responsibility.

'04 LUCAS WIESTER is currently teaching at Lincoln North Star High School in Lincoln, Neb. Together with his wife, they have two children.

'05 JENNIFER KATCHER DELANEY received the 2015 Graduate Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'05 SARA FOHN received the 2005 Honored Class Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'05 JOLINDA VEGA was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. Her term began in August.



'11 **MEGAN MORGAN SPEER AND HUSBAND,**
AUSTIN '10 welcomed their second daughter,
*Macie Marie, on July 10, 2015. Macie weighed 5lbs 10oz
and was 23 inches. She joins big sister, Morgan.*

'06 **JANICE MEAD** received the 2015 School of Visual & Communication Arts Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon.

'06 **BRANDI WILLIAMS RIGGS** received the 2015 School of Professional Studies Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon.

'07 **VALERIE BAKER** received her master's degree in Social Work from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and celebrated three years of marriage.

'07 **JESSICA COLLINS-SCACCIA** was featured in a Glamour Magazine article about teaching girls to be confident.

'07 **EMILY EAGAN DIETZ** welcomed second child, Shaylee Sue, on April 22, 2015.

'07 **TIFFANY AND BRIAN '07 POTERBIN** welcomed their third child, Easton Allen, on June 6. Tiffany also recently accepted a new position with Align Chiropractic Care for mommies and babies in Overland Park, Kan.

'07 **JOHNNY TURNAGE,** Assistant Director of Residence Life at Iowa Western Community College, moved to Iowa in April for his new position.

'08 **KATIE REYNOLDS** was recently engaged to Greg Boatman.

'08 **WHITNEY BEILER** was nominated for a Mid-America Regional Emmy for best newscast morning/daytime in large markets for her work as a producer with KSHB-TV.

'08 **TAPAN BHATT** was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. His term began in August.

'08 **ASHLYN FITZPATRICK HULL** was promoted to the chair and director of the Radiologic Science Program at Avila University. Previously, she served as a clinical coordinator.

'09 **VICTOR GRAY** and wife, Courtney, welcomed their first son, Brogan Victor, on June 23. Brogan weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

'09 **ELIZABETH HARRAHILL AND HUSBAND, WILL '09,** welcomed their second daughter, Reagan Grace, in May 2015.

'09 **ASHLEY HENSON** received the 2015 Recent Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'09 **BAILEY KYLE PYLE** recently accepted the position as school therapist for Lutheran Family and Children's Service in St. Louis.

'09 **'12, '14 EUDORA SAVAGE** was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. Her term began in August.

'09 **MICHELE WATLEY** was asked by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute to serve as a presenter at the Ferguson Community Leadership and Advocacy Seminar — "Building a New Political Future" in Ferguson, Mo. The April 2015 event included Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.), Congressman Lacy Clay (Mo.) and Congressman Keith Ellison (Mont.)

'10 **JOHNATHAN DECKER** recently accepted a position with Accountemps as a staffing manager.

'10 **RAY DLUGOLECKI** married Mallory on March 28, 2015. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo. Ray is currently working as an epidemiologist for the Cass County Health Department.

'10 **TARA CHRISTINE MCKEE KENNISON** and Aaron James Kennison were married on May 30, 2015 at Saint George Catholic Church in Odessa, Mo. Tara and Aaron are living in Lee's Summit, Mo.

'10 **BEN KOPP** graduated from Syracuse Law School on May 8, 2015. Ben received numerous awards and acknowledgements during his time at Syracuse including serving on the Student Bar Association, Judicial Board 2012-2015, Pro Bono and Community Service Recognition, member of the Moot Court Honor Society and the Robert W. Miller Award.

'10 **HEATH ROBERTS** was named by the Kansas City Business Journal as a NextGen Leader in Kansas City for 2015.

'10 **CHASE SLAUGHTER** and wife, Shae, welcomed their first child, Gunnison Knox, on August 6, 2015.

'11 **'12 ELLEN BARNES** was recently asked to join Avila University's Board of Counselors. Her term began in August.

'11 **JAMIE LEMASTER AND DALE DEETZ '13** were recently engaged. The couple plans to marry in February 2016 in Cabo San Lucas.



'12 SARA BOEN LITTLE married Ryan Little on June 27, 2015. Sara is a first grade teacher in the Park Hill School District.

'11 JOSEPH PARKHURST recently accepted the position of activities director at Holden High School in Holden, Mo.

'11 MONICA THOMSON was recently engaged to Gabe Weger. The couple is planning to wed in May 2016 in Cancun.

'12'15 SARA BOATWRIGHT recently relocated from Kansas City, Mo., for a new adventure in Maui, Hawaii.

'12 TYLER CARDWELL married wife, Jami, on May 23, 2015. The couple resides in Blue Springs, Mo., where they are both teachers for the Blue Springs School District.

'12 PAUL HILLBRAND moved to the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was accepted into the Marine and Environmental Science Master's Program at the University of the Virgin Islands.

'12 MICHELLE TAYLOR welcomed her first child, Archie, in February 2015.



'12 JESSICA WINKLEMAN HODGES married Austin Hodges on June 20, 2014. They welcomed their first child, Ryan Andrew, on September 20, 2014.

'12 EMILY BUXMAN SPOHN married Logan Spohn on April 18, 2015. The couple resides in McPherson, Kan.

'12'14 LISA YORK received the 2015 School of Business Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.

'13 TIM GILDAY AND REBECCA CAPEDE '15 were recently married on August 15, 2015. The couple will reside in Kansas City, Mo.

'13 MATTHEW LUE recently accepted the position of director of finance for the City of Warrensburg, Mo.

'13 MADISON WIEDEMAN is engaged to Taylor Dorman and the couple is planning an August wedding.

'14 MELODY CONSTANT accepted a position at Research Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo., in the progressive care unit.

'14 DR. MICHELLE HALEY recently accepted a position as chief medical officer at a federally funded health care facility in Raleigh, N.C.

'14 PAIGE SNYDER AND JOSH HEWITT '12 married on June 20, 2015.

'14 ALEXZIS THOMSON is now a production artist at Garmin International.

'14 MORGAN TROKEY is currently working on a cardiac step down unit at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Mo.

'14 REBECCA YOUNKER received the 2015 College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Alumni Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards Luncheon at Homecoming.



A CENTURY OF INSPIRATION
1916-2016

Avila's Centennial Celebration

is coming in 2016.

Send your memories, photographs and stories to **Haley Jean Jones**, Marketing Coordinator,

via email at

haley.jones@avila.edu, on

Facebook at

www.facebook.com/avilauniversity

or postal mail us at:

Avila University,

Office of Marketing and

Communication,

11901 Wornall Road,

Kansas City, MO 64145.

Be sure to include your current address and phone number.

As Avila's 100-year plans develop, we'll keep you informed, so you can be part of the celebration!

Stay Connected

We want to hear from you!

Job promotion, new baby, recent travels, new home? Let us know so we can share your good news!

Email your news to **alumni@avila.edu** or complete the What's New

With You form at **avila.edu/alumni**.

In Memoriam



'40 Mary Linden Stauch passed away April 27, 2015. She received her associate's degree from St. Teresa's Junior College, now Avila University, in 1940. Mary worked for Trans World Airlines (TWA), first in Kansas City, Mo. then transferred to New York, N.Y. She retired from TWA in 1982.

'51 Nadine Antoinette Binaggia passed away April 16, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University, in 1951, and her master's degree from Columbia University in New York, N.Y. Nadine taught in area schools for over 50 years.

'51 Margaret Louise Anne Brennan Monaghan passed away December 8, 2014. She received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University, in 1951. Margaret received her bachelor's degree in Education from Pittsburgh State University. She worked as a nurse and educator.

'52 Loretta Allebach passed away on April 29, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University, in 1952.

'55 Jeanne Ireland Cross DeCelles passed away April 17, 2015. She received her R.N. in Nursing from the College of St. Teresa in 1955. Jeanne was a leader in Cursillo and Charismatic Renewal movements in the 1960s, and became one of twenty-nine founding members of the ecumenical, charismatic, covenant community, the People of Praise in 1971.

'57 Marilyn Luckett Fleming passed away on April 6, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University in 1957.

'70 Margaret Josephine Windmueller passed away April 16, 2015, in Oklahoma City, Okla. She received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1970.

'74 Maryann Shields Minx passed away April 28, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Art from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1974. She taught in the Kansas City Mo. School District for several years.

'76 Linda Balderas Barrett passed away on Friday, February passed away May 25, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Avila College, now Avila University in 1976.

'76 Floyd Wiggins Jr. passed away on April 30, 2015. Floyd received his bachelor's degree in Social Work from Avila College, now Avila University in 1976.

'76 Linda Marie Balderas Barrett passed away May 25, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1976. Linda received her master's degree from the University of Missouri and worked in the field of Social Work, first in the Division of Family Services and later at the Kansas City VA Medical Center and at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth, Kan.

'79 Daniel Paul Hogan passed away on December 8, 2014. He received his bachelor's degree in Personnel from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1980. His wife, Cheryl Jessen Hogan, also received her bachelor's degree in Marketing from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1979.

'81 Amy De Young passed away June 30, 2015. Amy received her master's degree in Education from Avila College, now Avila University. Amy was a longtime teacher in various schools in the Kansas City area.

'94 Betty DeBaufer Loss passed away March 24, 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Art from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1994.

Father Robert M. Cameron passed away June 26, 2015. Father Cameron served as Chaplain at Avila College, now Avila University, and taught at several area Catholic schools including St. Pius X High School and St. Mary High School.

Cardinal William Wakefield Baum passed away July 23, 2015. Cardinal Baum was the third archbishop of Washington and the longest-serving American cardinal. In 1951, when he was ordained to the priesthood, the new Father Baum began serving at a Kansas City parish and teaching at Catholic schools, including Avila College, now Avila University.

To make a memorial gift, please visit avila.edu/give or call 816.501.3602.

A Legacy Grows Large as His Life

Byron G. Thompson Sr., supporter and dear friend of Avila University, passed away on August 4, 2015. Byron was a highly respected Kansas City banker and family man.

Most notably in his 70-year career in banking, he led Country Club Bank as chairman for thirty years.

Byron Thompson and family have been a part of the Avila Community for over half a century. Jeanne Collins Thompson, Byron's late wife, graduated from Avila College in 1954. Byron and Jeanne had 11 children together.

His son, Mark Thompson, is a member of the Board of Trustees and co-chair of Avila's Centennial Campaign, along with his wife, Amy.

After Jeanne's passing in 2003, Byron established an endowed scholarship, chaired the 2004 Steer Dinner with the

Class of 1954, and named a residence hall in her honor. Byron also served as honorary chairperson for the 2011 Steer Dinner.

The Amy Thompson Run for Brain Injury, which raises money for the Brain Injury Association of Kansas City, is named after Byron's late daughter, who passed away in 1989 after suffering from a brain injury. Avila University annually supports the run.

"We are ordinary people, just threads through a garment, sharing our blessings. We have been given so much, and we want to give back what we can for the continuation of Catholic education," Byron said in an interview with the Catholic Key on the naming of Avila's Thompson Hall.

Byron Thompson's legacy in the Kansas City community and at Avila University will not be forgotten. He will be truly missed.



Byron G. Thompson, Sr. (right) and daughter, Ann Thompson Eckels (left), with 2015 Ariston Awardee, Austin Armstrong (center).



Voices

Avila's Social Network

"As a non traditional student (older adult) I felt it was necessary to pursue a higher degree because most jobs required it. However, this journey has also helped me with personal growth and how possible it is to accomplish, what seemed to be impossible, big goals at any age. If I didn't go to Avila, I probably wouldn't have continued. Avila made learning for adults just that and this helps foster that personal growth. So my inspiration is AVILA! You made it possible for me to break through my own fears of starting/working towards a higher education!"

Facebook, Kat Costello

"Hands down the best college ever!"

Facebook, Heather Smith

"I went on a college visit a few weeks into my senior year and fell in love. The diversity of the students and campus was what I was looking for. I applied days later and was happy to be accepted. They're so helpful when I have questions and they answer them and make everything easier to understand."

Facebook, Austin Jennings

"Great staff, very friendly and hands on. Best experience ever."

Facebook, Kierra McKinney

"Local school @AvilaUniversity is receiving national recognition! <http://m.kshb.com/1M1ZScN>."

Twitter, @41ActionNews

"Enrolling in @AvilaUniversity MSOD Leadership Coaching Certification program Winter 2016. First step for @ICFHQ certification"

Twitter, @MsModification

Alumni Board 2015-2016

Laura (Wilkerson) Barr '04

Carol Jean (Stipetich) DeFeo '68

Cassi (Kline) Furderer '05

Molly (Kennedy) Groebe '02

Katherine Guyer '11

Tamela Handie '93

Donna Jungman '06

Cecile O'Hara '10

Brian Poterbin '07

Keith Richcreek '05, '08, '11

Michele Sanders '85

Michael Stolberg '09

Jacob Zinn '11



A CENTURY OF INSPIRATION
1916-2016

BOARD OF COUNSELORS 2015-16

Ellen Barnes, PMP, MSOD, LSSGB '11, '12
GEHA

Tapan Bhatt '08
Tera Crunch

Alicia Cabrera-Hill '02
Exposure Models and Talent

Amy D. Cline, MBA '96
Bryan Cave LLP

Virginia Coppinger, BSN '58
Community Advocate

Bobbi Courville '58
Community Volunteer

Derek Feagans '95
Tradebot Systems

Michelle Graff '89
Gillis

Johnny Ingram, Jr. '83
AT&T

Leon Jones '01
Paralegal Specialist

Robin Jordan
YMCA

Kay Julian '82
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Marcia Kenley '98
Community Volunteer

Stephen F. Lampone
Kansas City Parks & Recreation (retired)

Gregory Alan Lever '85
National Institute for Construction Excellence

Autumn Markley '97
Goppert Financial

Blane Markley '97
Spencer Fan Britt & Brownie, LLP

Lauren McCarthy '07
McCarthy Auto Group

Julie McManus '67
Community Advocate

Edith Louise Messina '66, '06
16th Judicial Circuit Court of Jackson County

Mona J. Moran, RN, BSN, CCM, QI, '96
Children's Mercy Hospital

Ann O' Hare
The Historical Society of New Santa Fe

Jeanne Christine Rau-Flattery '92
Millennium International

Heath M. Roberts '10
Children's Mercy Hospital

Eudora Savage '09, '12, '14
American Business Women's Association

Elaine Strobe '72
Dyantek

Belinda Troxler '88
Community Advocate

JoLinda Gonzales Vega '05
IBM

Tim Waris
St. Thomas More Parish

Michele L. Watley '09
Missouri Secretary of State Kansas City Office

Julie Weiss '78, MBA '83
Community Advocate

Linda Wiersma '97, '02
Sunflower Elementary

Faith Wilson, Ph.D
St. Teresa's Academy

John Woolway
Vantage Investment Partners, LLC

Catch the Action *LIVE!*

Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. on ESPN-3 and KSMO-TV

The Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) commissioner, Lori Thomas, has signed an agreement with Niles Media Group to televise football games each week of the entire football season. The Eagles' date to be aired is set on Avila's Senior Day game versus Evangel, on November 7.

We invite you to come watch the game at Avila's Zarda Multisport Complex or catch it live. 📺



Photos provided by Arielle Berna



Champions at Bat

Avila Softball's Historic Season Shatters Records

Avila head coach, Samantha Honeycutt, led the Eagles to their first ever Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) Postseason Tournament Championship in 2015, leading to the Eagles' first ever appearance in the Opening Round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Postseason Tournament. Although the Eagles lost to Corban (Ore.), they still had a season for the record books.

The Heart of America Athletic Conference named six members of the Avila softball team to their All-Conference teams and honors. Tori Aziere (pitcher) and Madison Mueth (infielder) were named 1st Team All-HAAC performers. Jennifer Hammonds (pitcher), Kaycee Dexter (shortstop), Katie McMurray (infielder/outfielder) and Monica Hudson (outfielder) were named to the 2nd team. Head coach, Honeycutt, was named Co-Coach of the Year in her first season with the Eagles. Congratulations to Avila softball team on their amazing season! 🏆



Photos provided by Jan Humphreys Photography

Renovations at Mabee Fieldhouse

The Avila University Mabee Fieldhouse received renovations over the summer months, made possible by the McCullough Family Foundation.



Refinished hardwood court floors with new conference logo



Renovated athletic training room



Video room with theater seating for watching game footage



Fully updated men's and women's basketball locker rooms complete with new carpet, lockers and lounge



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Avila University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet





A Firm Foundation

Avila University has been a firm foundation for Julie Trotter '66.

Julie Trotter graduated from Avila College in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in Math and Chemistry. After four years at St. Teresa's Academy (STA), Julie moved 'next door' to Avila College for the secure and nurturing values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and mentoring of beloved Sister Ann Dominic.

Julie says that attending Avila College was the best choice for her. "Throughout your life you can see many critical decision points," Julie said. "Had I gone to a large school, I would have likely failed. Attending Avila, a small all-girls school like St. Teresa's, was the best fit for me."

In a time when the main entry profession for a woman was a teacher or nurse, Julie chose a different path. Inspired by her uncle who was a programmer, she found a programmer trainee job right out of college and stayed in that field for 40 successful years. Julie, who owned a lovely home in Manhattan Beach, Calif., for most of those years, held a variety of positions with increasing responsibilities at companies like Computer Sciences Corp (programming operating systems for IBM's System 360 during the Woodstock era), Symantec/Peter

Norton Group (managing antivirus and backup software development), and Xerox (large printing systems software development). Julie's love was working at two startups where she was easily the oldest person in the room of 25 year-olds. Her career highlight was creating a commercial-grade voice over IP software service. The service is still sold today by British Telecom to their enterprise customers worldwide.

Julie has recently returned to Kansas City, a hometown rich in memory, and lives down the street from her grandfather's home. A dedicated individual who aims to achieve all she sets out to do, Julie enjoys hobbies, including deadheading roses at Loose Park Rose Garden, learning French and playing beginner's bridge, tennis and piano. Whether it is the variety of positions in the field of technology or her newfound hobbies – she is a person who is always open to trying new opportunities.

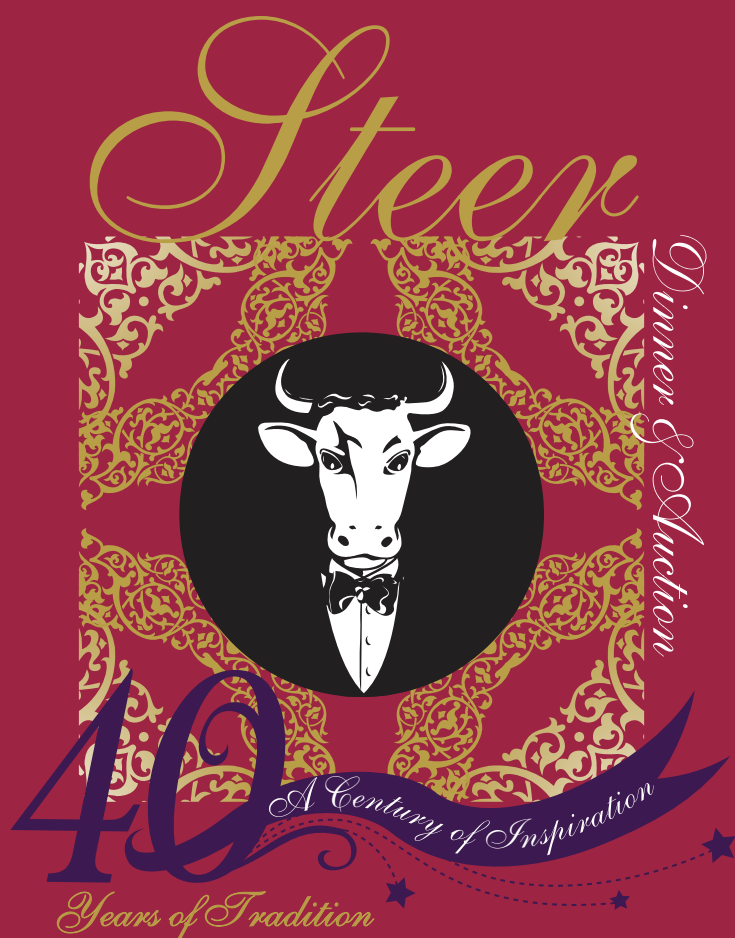
Now living in a comfortable condominium down the road from STA, Julie felt it was her time to give back to the school that gave her stability and direction. "I wanted to give a gift as a thank you," she said. "Gratitude is always the best attitude." 🍷

Securing Avila's Heritage

Establishing an endowed scholarship to benefit future Avila students is just one way you can join The Avila Heritage Society. The Heritage Society was established in 1988 to recognize the remarkable contributions of Avila alumni and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans or lifetime planned gifts to support the future needs of the University. Such provisions include:

- Bequest through Wills
- and Trusts
- Charitable Remainder or
- Lead Trusts
- Appreciated Securities
- Real Estate and Life Estates
- in Homes
- Gift Annuities
- Life Insurance Policies

To find out more about joining Avila's Heritage Society or the gift vehicles above, please contact Keith Jaloma, director of major gifts, at 816.501.3696 or Keith.Jaloma@avila.edu.



Saturday, February 6, 2016

Save the Date

Avila University's 40th Annual

Steer Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Muehlebach Tower

**Honoring the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
and**

Recognizing 40 Years of Steer Leadership

Steak Dinner • Live & Silent Auction • Live Band

Tables of 10 are \$2,500. Individual tickets are \$250.
Recent Alumni Tickets: \$75 (for 2005-2015 alumni).

Sponsorship packages are available.

Proceeds benefit the Avila University Scholarship Fund.

For more information call 816.501.2450
or email advancement@avila.edu.

avila.edu/steer

Avila University | *Be Inspired.*